The Clarion Call

☆ Official Newsletter of Mass. Dept. Sons of Union Veterans ☆

SUMMER 2000 P.O. BOX 11, WINCHESTER, MA 01890

Department of Mass., SUVCW Honors Unknown Union Soldier

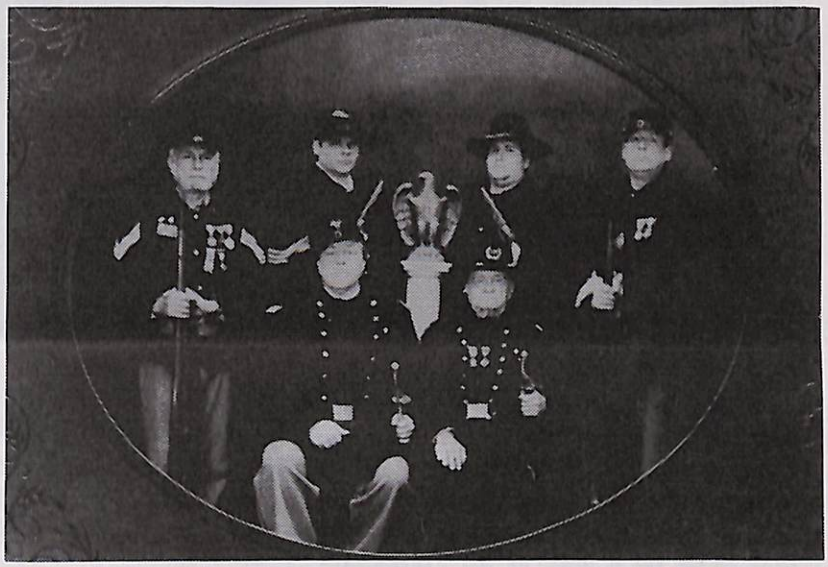
By John W. Bates, III
Commander Camp 104 and Dept. Council Member

BOURNE,MA., May 28, 2000 - At the National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremonies. The Dept. of Mass. paid a tribute and Memorial to the only unknown Union Soldier buried in Massachusetts. Led by NERA Commander Frank Tucker, the Dept. was well represented by over a dozen members. Among those present were; Dept. Commander Bill Ryerson, Senior Vice Commander Bob Knight, Junior Vice Commander Doug Knight, Council Members Dean Sargent and John Bates, Dept. Counselor Peter Rotando, Dept. Chief of Staff Bob Anderson and Lt. Richard Luftkin of the SVR.

At 1300 Hours, the Dept. assembled for Parade March. Comdr. Tucker led the delegation down Memorial Blvd. To the speakers platform located In the beautiful Veterans Memorial Section. As we held at Parade Rest, Commanders Tucker and Ryerson joined the various Veterans Groups At the Speakers Platform. NERA Comdr. Tucker was called on to read General Logan's Orders of 1868 establishing Memorial Day for the G.A.R. And Bill Ryerson presented a wreath from the Dept. at the Memorial Service.

The Dept. then assembled and marched several hundred yards to the grave of the Unknown Union Soldier. A solemn and touching ceremony was Conducted by Dept. Comdr. Ryerson with assistance from the other Dept. Officers followed by a three volley salute of muskets by Camp 104 Commander John Bates and SVR Lt. Richard Luftkin.

It was a privilege and a honor for those of us present to attend these services, After all this is the purpose of the SUVCW to honor our ancestors who gave The ultimate sacrifice. The Dept. of Mass. plans to participate annually at this event and we hope to increase the members present each year. Our special thanks go out to Frank Tucker who was kind to our needs by re-writing the Original Ceremonies that he and Ed Parks originated several years ago. We also will make this Memorial Service as written by Comdr. Tucker available to any and all who would like a copy.



Recognize anyone in this photo ? Historian Dean Sargent claims this is a group of Mass. Soldiers, if you can identify any of these fellows,contact Dean.

Department of Mass. Memorial Day 2000 Observance a success

By Bill Ryerson, Department Commander

Purpose: To honor all Union Soldiers who fought in the Civil War by taking part at the Bourne National Cemetery Memorial Day Program and to decorate the grave of the only unknown Union Soldier buried in New England.

Plans: The Dept. of Mass. joined with the New England Regional Association of the SUVCW, who were the originators of this event, with the desire to have a larger turnout than the scant few who showed up in 1999.

Result: The largest attendance in recent years, over four times that of 1999, followed by a afternoon snack at a local restaurant attended by over twenty persons. . . and a jolly good time!

Distractions: Announcements in the May 2K issue of *REVEILLE* critical of our plans. Then on May 1 8th, Ellsworth Brown sends a two page complaint to Commander in Chief Danny Wheeler regarding our plans at Bourne, C. in C. Wheeler answers, quote; "I will stay out of this and let MA. handle their own business. . .Danny" (thank you Commander Wheeler) Then in the June 2K issue of *REVEILLE* written by Ellsworth Brown, quote; "Understand the attendance at the SUV ceremony at Bourne on Sunday May 28 was sparse. If those in charge of the color guard itself showed, there would be quite a crowd." And also by Ellsworth Brown, quote: " Also re: Bourne, is it, or is it ain't a Regional event? Different sources, different stories."

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•**Memorial Day** (From Pg. 1)

Question: Why does a Commander of a Mass. Camp operated out of New Hampshire continue to lambaste our every move. Why attack the honoring of our Civil War ancestors and any and everyone attempting to partake in same?

More complaints: C. in C. Danny Wheeler is approached in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day by the Browns with more complaints about our participation at Bourne and gives the same reply as above.

Department scholarships available

The 2K State Encampment authorized $500 for Scholar-ships. The Department will grant one $500 or two $250 scholarships this fall. To apply you must be a son, or an immediate member of a son's family. Send applications to the Dept. Commander at P.O. Box 11, Winchester, Mass. 01890. Please state your age, educational plans, a brief summary of your hopes and desires for the future and submit by September 1, 2000.. The Dept. Officers will select the winners.

Funds available for recruiting

A Camp may be reimbursed up to $50. For advertising for new members. Send a copy of the advertisement together with receipt of payment to DJVC Douglass Knight at P.O. Box 955, Salem, NH 03079.

MARCHING DOWN MEMORIAL BLVD. At Bourne Nat. Cemetery, the Dept. of Mass. made a good showing In front John Bates, Bob Knight and Peter Rotando can be seen and Ricky Eccelston and Bob Anderson Are in left rear.
(John Bates mother-in-law took these photo..thanks Mom)

Camp 15 dedicates plaque to Civil War heroes

SOUTH HADLEY, MA., June 24. - L.A.Tifft Camp 15 of Springfield was responsible in the raising and dedication a bronze plaque at Mt. Holyoke Commons to the memory of the 21 men who died in the Union Army during the Civil War. Gerald Barsalou the Camp Grave Registration Officer was the spearhead in researching the Soldiers names and raising $1,200 for the bronze plaque. Camp Commander Robert Knight directed the Camp Color Guard for a most colorful Dedication Service. Congratulations to Camp 15 and Brother Barsalou for a job well done.

Department of Connecticut has new Commander

We are happy to announce that our Past Dept. Commander Roger Olsen is now the Nutmeg State Dept. Commander. Roger just finished Serving as Mass. Dept. Counselor and jumped Into his new job in his resident State. Roger will be missed for his thoughtful advice, but we hope to see him often in the Bay State as he holds a dual membership in Camp 15. Best of luck.
jollyrogmm@aol.com

Little Rhoddy picks a Mass. Son

The new State Commander for the Dept. of Rhode Island is a Massachusetts resident, Robert C. Bromley, Good luck Brother.

Our beloved Department Chaplain returns

We are happy to report that Rev. E. Gage Hotaling has accepted re-appointment to the Office of Dept. Chaplain. Gage is just too good to retire from his duties.

Peter wears a new hat, or robe

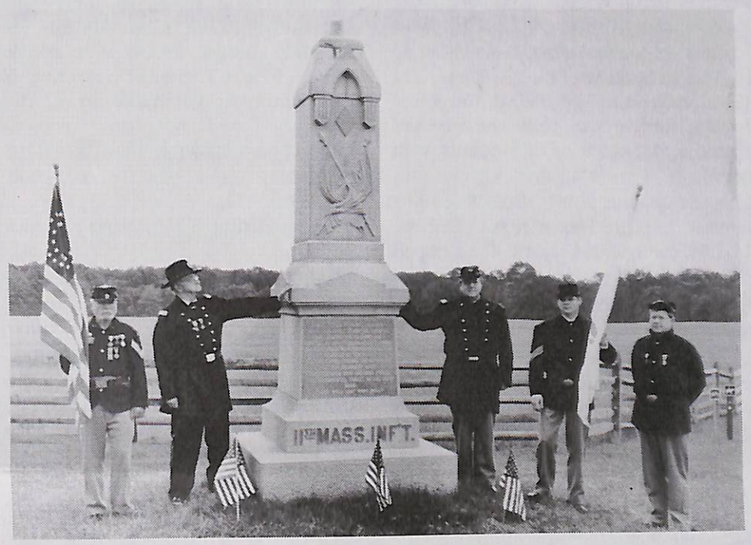
Willie Grout Camp 25 Commander Peter N. Rotando, who just finished serving out a term on our former Executive Committee and also does a great job on the Color Guard, has accepted the position of Dept. Counselor. Dept. Commander Bill Ryerson watched his performance last August at National and requested his expertise, in character Peter had to think it over but finally accepted.

PDC Fred Cauldwell resting at home

It's fair to say that the past year has not been kind to Brother Fred. After suffering an attack last June in Rockland, brain surgery, and a lengthy recovery, Fred has been beset with further medical problems. His strength at our State Encampment was admirable. How he stood up to pain and fever we can only respect his courage and pray for his recovery. Please send a card to:

Frederic S. Cauldwell, Jr.,
29 Woodland St.
Millbury, MA. 01527-3155

The Clarion Call address is:
Bill Ryerson, Editor,
P.O. Box 11
Winchester, Mass. 01890



JUNE 11, GETTYSBURG,PA.; MASS. 11 honors their Memorial on the Battlefield DSVC Bob Knight, Mass. 11 Col. Frank Tucker, Kevin Tucker, Ricky Eccelston and Camp 104 Comdr. John Bates (CC Bates has named the Mass. 11th Color Guard for his Camp)

Who's this new Commander?

William T. Ryerson,Sr. is the Great-Great Grandson of William Delos Ryerson a private In the Forth Vermont Regiment. Wm. Delos Was captured and imprisoned at Andersonville, Transferred to Millen,Ga. Stockade where he died while P.O.W. in October, 1864. Ryerson also claims several other ancestors who fought In the Colonial and Rev. Wars. " No, we didn't come over on the Mayflower, but we rolled a rock out for them to step on".

Mass. 11th in Harrisburg Millennium festivities

By Col. Frank J. Tucker - 11th Mass. Vol. Inf. Regt.

On June 11th, after much preliminary preparation, members of the Mass. 11th arrived in Harrisburg Pennsylvania to participate in the Harrisburg Millennium festivities honoring the Civil War. Our group consisted of six uniformed officers,and enlisted personnel, Headed up by Colonel Frank J. Tucker, accompanied by his Adjutant, Major Kevin Tucker. The Color Unit was under the direction of Sr. Vice Commander of the Department of Mass. SUVCW and color Sergeant, Robert Knight. Color Guards were Frank Mulvihill of the 11th Mass., who also served as unit photographer, and Corporal John Bates of the 11th Mass. and Commander of Camp 104 of the Dept, of Mass. SUVCW and additionally Department Council Member.

After arrival, our unit embarked for a trek to the Gettysburg Battlefield, where a most impressive ceremony, written by Colonel Tucker was enacted at the battle site of the Third Corps, where the original 11th Mass. had distinguished itself under General Sickles during the Battle of Gettysburg. It is sad to interject a footnote to all of this report, in that the flags we displayed at the monument to the 11th Mass. were stolen during the night by vandals. Nothing seems to be sacred anymore. That being as it may the unit made three trips from Harrisburg to Gettysburg, the final trip being made by the 11th, on the 11th of June (Coincidence?) **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

Sergeant Bob Knight was instrumental in locating Company B of the 20th Maine that Commander Bates was so diligently tracking. Tricks were played by individuals of the unit in the spirit of good fun, a few jokes were tossed around and a spirit of "hail fellow, well met ",was evident all around. The unit achieved in one short stay, what has been eluding the Department of Mass. SUVCW for several years. It is hoped that this spirit of good fellowship will be reborn in our order. The attendees can hardly wait for a return trip, with a much larger group at a date to be named, but in the meantime plans have already been set for participation in the Remembrance Day Parade on November 18th. If any Brother wishes to make plans for attendance at this late date, please feel free to contact Colonel Frank Tucker or Secretary Ed Parks, and we will make an effort to arrange your Rooms and keep you updated on our own plans. Thus far we have set aside a block of six rooms with cots. The only thing the unit requires is that if you attend, it be in uniform.

We hope Massachusetts will be greatly visible this year at Gettysburg. At present we have an enlistment in the Mass. 11th of some forty soldiers. We suggest you make your plans known ASAP. Colonel Tucker will be holding an informal meeting in the near future to set up a calendar of events for the unit, which will include a date for our return to Gettysburg for an annual ceremony at the monument to the men of the Massachusetts 11th Infantry.

As an addendum, it might be noted that the unit will be participating in Veterans Day Services at the Bourne National Cemetery, under the direction of Colonel Frank Tucker, who originated and wrote the first ritual for the Union Soldier's graveside ceremonies.

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BOURNE NATIONAL CEMETERY, SUNDAY MAY 28, 2000 Sons gather for Memorial Day Ceremonies Kneeling is Dean Sargent, standing are; Ricky Eccelston, Dept. Comdr. Bill Ryerson, Peter Rotando, Bob Knight, Bob Anderson, John Bates, Frank Tucker and Kevin Tucker. *Apologies to DJVC Doug Knight and several other Sons who arrived after this photo was taken.*

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